30

POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State XPOL 14-1 Viets

706

53 CONFIDENTIAL

Action NUMBER 07670 JA870 JA855

RP RUEHC

EA DE RUMJIR 424 1871305

Info ZNY CCCCC

R 061225Z JUL 68

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SS TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

GPM INFO RUMTRK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SP RUHHHOA/CINCPAC

EC RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

SAH STATE GRNC

RT

L C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 424

H CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SAL

IO 1. PRIME MINISTER KY MADE TELEVISION APPEARANCE EVENING JULY 3

P TO EXPLAIN HIS WITHDRAWAL AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. SPEECH

USIA FULLY REPORTED IN VERNACULAR PRESS AND MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

NSC 1) KY'S DECISION WAS NOT A "POLITICAL" ONE SINCE FROM POLITI-

INR CAL POINT OF VIEW ONLY TWO COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO HIM WOULD

CIA HAVE BEEN TO REMAIN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OR RETURN TO THE

NSA AIR FORCE; 2) DECISION TO BE THIEU'S RUNNING MATE WAS MADE

DOD TO PRESERVE THE HONOR AND STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES; 3) KY

AID

WAS NOT UNDER ANY PRESSURE TO WITHDRAW HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDI-

RSR DACY AND DECISION WAS ENTIRELY HIS OWN; 4) KY SAID A REASON

RSC FOR GIVING SPEECH WAS THAT HIS DECISION WAS CAUSED CONSIDER-

ABLE SURPRISE AMONG HIS COMPATRIOTS AND BY EXPLAINING SITUATION

PERSONALLY HE COULD PUT TO REST THE MANY RUMORS "WHICH OUR

COMPATRIOTS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY HEARD DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS."

2. ON JULY 4 WHILE VISITING LONG KHANH PROVINCE, KY REITER-

ATED FOREGOING POINTS TO NEWSMEN AND, REFERRING TO "INCORRECT"

ACCOUNTS OF HIS WITHDRAWAL OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY BY CER-

TAIN FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, ADDED THAT HE HAS NO POLITICAL

AMBITIONS AND IS NOT SEEKING A POSITION OF POWER. IN CHINH

LUAN ACCOUNT OF KY'S LONG KHANH VISIT KY ALSO QUOTED AS SAY-

ING THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH TWO HENCE PEDDLERS OR LACKEYS

OF COMMUNISTS AND IMPERIALISTS CAN COME TO POWER (IN FORTH-

COMING ELECTIONS) AND THAT SUCH PERSONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS

LEADERS BY EITHER THE PEOPLE OR THE ARMY.

3. MEANWHILE, NOT TO BE OUTDONE [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY NSC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Evan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED: ☑ RELEASABLE ☑

RELEASED IN PART ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

RUNNING-MATE TRINH QUOC KHANH ISSUED A POINT DECLARATION JULY 4 STATING THAT KHANH'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THIEU'S SLATE PROMPTED SOLELY BY NEED FOR MILITARY UNITY IN FACE OF COMMUNIST THREAT. DECLARATION ALSO STATES: "IN SO DECIDING, WE SEE NO GREATER SACRIFICE OR LOSS FOR ONE OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL RUNNING IN THE ELECTION...WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS SACRIFICES OF FIGHTING MEN ON THE FRONT LINES...."

3. COMMENT: THIEU/KHANH DECLARATION IS OBVIOUS JAB AT PM KY WHO IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENST HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING PERSONAL SACRIFICE INVOLVED IN WITHDRAWING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY.

BUNKER
BT

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